

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 9 are independent.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,944,358 to Morimoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0091665 to Beck et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the test for obviousness is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants respectfully assert that the teachings of the references, in particular, those portions cited by the Examiner, do not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. For example, the Examiner cites Beck at paragraph [0014] lines 16-20. This portion of Beck states:

The JPEG200 file format was intended to be a self-contained image description format for the rendering of an image and was not intended to support a description of the content of the image nor provide interactivity with the rendered image.

This paragraph of Beck does not appear to have any relation to Applicants' claimed invention. Nor has the Examiner clearly stated how this paragraph may relate to Applicants' invention.

On page 3, paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Applicants' arguments rely on features which are not recited in the claims. This is not correct. Applicants' argument on page 2, lines 17-22 of the response filed July 2, 2008, is clearly described as a non-limiting example. Applicants' argument is directed to the recitation in claim 1 of a ~~replacer~~ replacing code-data constituting one of regions corresponding to destinations or other regions with code-data which make

pieces of information included in the regions invisible, in combination with other claimed features.

In paragraph 3 of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates Applicants' arguments do not comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty of Applicants' claimed invention. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' July 2, 2008 response clearly asserts that the claimed feature of making pieces of information invisible in combination with the other claimed features, is not disclosed by the combination of Morimoto and Beck.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing system which can code image data, form a JPEG2000 file, and transmit the JPEG2000 file to a plurality of destinations. A relator relates a plurality of regions preset in the image data to destinations. A replacer replaces code data constituting one of regions corresponding to the destinations or the other regions with code data which make pieces of information included in the regions invisible in the JPEG2000 file transmitted to the destinations.

In a non-limiting example described in applicants' specification in paragraphs [0044] and [0045], document 40 is an example of an original document to be transmitted to a plurality of destinations. Original document 40 includes regions 41, 42 and 43 which are colored red, yellow and blue, respectively. A file in which the red colored regions 41 are invisible, is generated for destination A. A file in which a yellow colored region 42 is invisible, is generated for destination B and a file in which a blue colored region 43 is invisible, is generated for destination C. When the images are acquired by the respective destinations, each will have respective invisible regions. Such a feature is not disclosed by Morimoto.

Instead, Morimoto discloses an image dividing means 14a that divides raw image data into first divided image data A1 and second divided image data A2. The divided image data is combined and output to the CPU 17. The Office Action asserts that the claimed feature of making pieces of information invisible is disclosed in Morimoto at column 5, line 65 through column 6, lines 1-5. However, these portions of Morimoto merely describe the various structures of the Morimoto device.

A main memory 26 is interconnected with the analog signal processing circuit 13, the RPU 14, a DMA controller (data transfer controller) 24 and a JPEG processing part 25 through the main bus 10. The CPU 17 or the DMA controller 24 controls data transfer between the analog signal processing circuit 13 and the main memory 26 or between the RPU 14 and the main memory 26.

In the event the rejection is maintained, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to point out with particularity which features of Morimoto correspond to Applicants' claimed features.

The Office Action cites Beck as teaching the JPEG2000 file format. Thus, Beck does not overcome the deficiencies of Morimoto noted above.

As stated in MPEP §2142, the Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. If the Examiner does not produce a *prima facie* case, the Applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of nonobviousness. The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is the clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not met his burden of proof nor has the Examiner provided sufficient evidence of the features of Applicants' claimed invention being disclosed in Morimoto in combination with Beck.

Independent claims 4, 8 and 9 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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